

MAUPIN MESSAGE

I love serving at FCA Summer Camp!

Recently, I was telling a good friend about my experience at the June 5-12 Central Arkansas FCA Summer Camp at Spring Lake Campground in Lonsdale, AR. He immediately stopped me after I said, "I love serving at FCA Summer Camp" to tell me that he thought that phrase was perfect prayer letter content. I have been trying to write this particular prayer letter for two weeks now and I might not say "perfect" but that phrase really does capture my heart.

My heart is filled with gratitude that your prayers and your giving provide a way for me to serve with FCA and among the most gratifying service I've done is participating in putting on FCA Central Arkansas Summer Camp for junior high and senior high students the past two years. Over the course of one week, with three days designated to 6th-8th graders and three days set for 9th-12th graders, FCA gives students a full course of fun, competition and biblical clarity. Our goal is to equip each camper for life after camp while filling their time with us with fun, competitive sports and fitness as well as clear gospel presentations and discipleship disciplines. The camp, in a phrase, is all about Jesus and all He has planned for them both during the week and beyond the week of camp. The students leave filled with biblical teaching, practical tools, new and, we trust, lasting friendships and a mission to be used by God to reach family, friends and all those they love with the life-changing message of Jesus Christ. The last morning with each group is filled with testimonies from the students and even a few of the "huddle leaders"—the ones who have 7-8 students to shepherd—that reveal what God was doing while we were having so much fun together.

If you are interested in numbers, the junior high camp was filled to capacity of 382 campers; the senior high saw 313 campers attend. This represented the highest number in the 10-year history of the Central Arkansas Summer Camp! To God be the glory. In total, 120 campers indicated they had made a 1st-time commitment to put their trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior! Also, 315 campers indicated they had recommitted their lives to authentically follow Jesus. Personally, I was moved by the work of the Holy Spirit in and among the volunteer coaches and fellow staff—we held a nightly bible study in our "dorm"—who served in a variety of ways to help the campers transition from activity to activity and venue to venue. The evidence that God was fully in charge came through in the way weather was not an issue despite each day's forecast for rain and the potential for stifling heat—which we experienced last year yet without incident—as our entire week only saw two rain-related interruptions and temps in 80s and lows in the 60s at night.

Also, listening to the students share how THEY saw evidence of God in their conversations and how THEY gained a better grasp on God's plan for their lives due to Camp led me to cheers of gratitude. FCA, like you and I, cannot change a single life. However, just as God uses you and I as we make ourselves available to be used by Him, He uses FCA to lead coaches and athletes to a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church. That is where the life-change happens and YOU make it possible through your prayers and support. Thank you!

